

Propositions to the General Chapter

The Preparatory Commission recommends that we continue with the process used during the last several General Chapters for the solicitation and preparation of Propositions for the XXXV General Chapter. This communication indicates clearly the format that is to be used for submitting propositions to the General Chapter. We ask those submitting propositions to adhere closely to that format.

Propositions from Unit governments, local communities or individual members of the Society of Mary are presented no later than **MARCH 1, 2018** to the Preparatory Commission for review and recommendation. If at all possible, we would like to receive propositions sooner than the deadline date. **Propositions are submitted electronically by clicking the following link: [PROPOSITIONS](#).**

Propositions are to follow a prescribed format, which includes 1. the precise text of the proposition, 2. the rationale for the proposition, 3. the person or persons responsible for its implementation and the approximate financial cost of the implementation, 4. Its implications.

The propositions must clearly state the nature of the action required:

- a. a modification of the *Rule of Life*
- b. a decision compulsory for the whole Society of Mary
- c. a directive addressed to a particular level of government—General, Unit, or local
- d. a recommendation addressed to a particular level of government—General, Unit or local.

The Preparatory Commission of the General Chapter will review and study all the propositions submitted, and it will make a decision concerning the disposition of each proposition. The Preparatory Commission may decide one of the following:

- a. to accept the proposition as stated and present it to the General Chapter
- b. to accept the general intent of the proposition, revise the text, and present the revised text to the General Chapter. This would include the possibility of combining into one proposition the texts of similar propositions.
- c. refer the proposition to one of the proposed Particular Commissions of the General Chapter for discussion and action
- d. to decide not to present the proposition either because it is not Chapter material, or it is not related to the theme of the Chapter, or it should be addressed by another level of government.

All the propositions, along with the disposition of each proposition proposed by the Preparatory Commission, will be sent electronically to each capitulant of the General Chapter. The original version of all propositions [in the language in which they were written] will be available at the time of the General Chapter for review by any capitulant who wishes to see the original text submitted to the Preparatory Commission.

Preparatory Commission Proposition Instructions and Guidance

**Propositions are submitted electronically
by clicking the following link: [PROPOSITIONS](#).**

PROPOSITION

Text of the proposition: (Give the specific text that is to be considered the actual proposition. **MAX: 100 words**)

Example: It is proposed that the term of office for a local community superior be changed from the current three years to four years with the possibility of ordinary renewal once. A third term, by exception, would continue to require the prior approval of the Superior General.

Justification: (Give an explanation of the rationale for this proposition. **MAX: 300 words**)

Example:

- In those areas that are aging, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find persons who are able to serve as community directors.
- A longer term will provide greater stability to local communities because a serious change of leadership will be less frequent.
- Greater stability in the communities will allow Unit Councils the freedom to concentrate on other matters not having to consider the replacement of superiors as often.

Economic Cost and responsibility of implementation: (Here you should indicate who would be expected to be responsible for the implementation of this proposition and provide an estimate of the costs, if any, as well as how these costs would be met. **MAX: 100 Words.**)

Example: Unit superiors, under whose competence rests the appointment community superiors would implement this proposition. No additional costs are anticipated.

Implications: Please indicate clearly the implications of this Proposition according to the following guidelines (**Max: 200 words**). Is this Proposition...?

- a modification of the Rule of Life (***Provide all applicable articles***)
- a decision compulsory for the whole Society of Mary
- a directive addressed to a particular level of government—General, Unit, or local
- a recommendation addressed to a particular level of government—General, Unit or local.

Example: The adoption of this proposition would require a modification of the *Rule of Life*, Article 105. Therefore, becoming part of our *Rule*, it would be a decision compulsory for the whole Society of Mary.

Propositions must be submitted by March 1, 2018.